

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6012
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AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION USBERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENNA 03590

E.O. 11652:GDS
TAGS: PGOV, GE, GW, AU
SUBJECT: SOME KREISKY IMPRESSIONS ON GDR

REF: VIENNA 3552

1. IN COURSE OF MEETING WITH KREISKY ON OTHER BUSINESS (REFTEL), AMBASSADOR QUERIED CHANCELLOR ON HIS GENERAL IMPRESSIONS FROM RECENT OFFICIAL VISIT (MARCH 30 - APRIL 1) TO GDR. KREISKY STATED HE HAD NO ILLUSIONS ABOUT GDR; IT WAS COMMUNIST STATE LIKE ALL OTHER EE COUNTRIES. ONLY MAJOR DIFFERENCE IS THAT, LIKE FRG, IT IS INHABITED BY GERMANS. THIS CONSIDERATION HAS BEEN BEHIND AUSTRIAN SUPPORT FOR FRG'S LONG-TERM AIM OF REUNIFICATION AND FOR AUSTRIA'S EARLIER DECISION TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH GDR. FRG POLICY TOWARD GDR HAS BEEN CORRECT ONE, ACCORDING TO KREISKY. SINCE REUNIFICATION IS NOT NOW POSSIBLE, EVERYTHING POSSIBLE SHOULD BE DONE TO PROMOTE ESTABLISHMENT OF HUMAN RELATIONS BETWEEN GERMAN PEOPLES, WHICH IS WHAT FRG HAS BEEN TRYING TO DO.

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2. KREISKY DESCRIBED GDR TOP LEADERSHIP AS MORE STUBBORN THAN TOUGH, NOT PARTICULARLY BRIGHT AND CONSISTING, WITH EXCEPTION OF FEW INTELLECTUALS, OF ORTHODOX PARTY TYPES. THIS LATTER GROUP, KREISKY FEELS, HAS DEVELOPED INTO NEW CLASS, CONCERNED ABOUT POLITICAL AND MATERIAL ADVANTAGES OF THEIR POSITIONS AND HAS MAJOR STAKE IN CONTINUATION OF CURRENT REGIME. LEADERSHIP OF GDR, ACCORDING TO KREISKY,

SEEMS MORE ISOLATED FROM OUTSIDE WORLD THAN THAT OF OTHER
EE COUNTRIES. THIS SITUATION IS OF ADVANTAGE TO SOVIET
UNION SINCE CONTACTS OF GERMANS ACROSS FRG-GDR BORDERS
WORKS AGAINST SOVIET UNION'S INFLUENCE AND CONTROL OVER
GDR.

3. KREISKY NOTED THAT HIS VISIT TO GDR WAS BENEFICIAL TO
GDR FOR POWER-PRESTIGE REASONS. ON OTHER HAND, AIM OF
VISIT WAS TO EXPAND CONTACTS AND HUMAN RELATIONS AND IN
THIS EFFORT KREISKY THOUGHT SOME MODEST SUCCESS HAD BEEN
ACHIEVED. GDR LEADERSHIP HAS, HOWEVER, TO BE MADE MORE
RESPONSIVE TO REQUIREMENT THAT IT CONTRIBUTE TO DETENTE
BY ALLOWING INCREASED CONTACTS. IN KREISKY'S VIEW, WEST
SHOULD THEREFORE TAKE THE MIDDLE GROUND IN ITS RELATIONS
WITH GDR, NEITHER ESTABLISHING AS CLOSE RELATIONS WITH
GDR AS WITH OTHER EE COUNTRIES NOR TRYING TO ISOLATE GDR.
BORG

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